

FORBES, HOOSE REPLICA

DRAWER 11

BIRTHPLACE CABIN

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# Kentucky

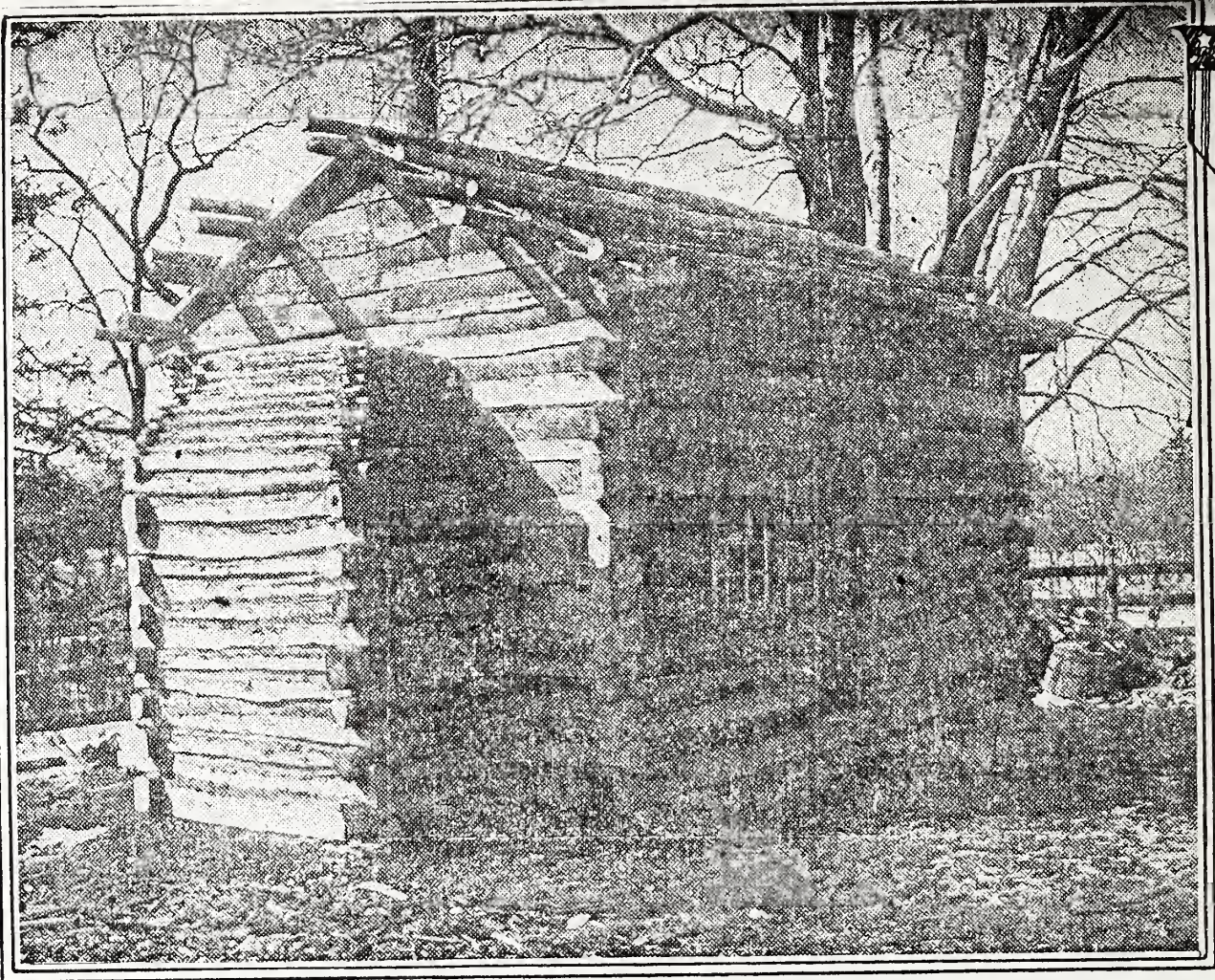
## Birthplace Cabin

Replica at Captain Robert  
Bennet Forbes House

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection





**A Replica of the Little Log Cabin  
Where Lincoln Was Born, Perfect to  
the Last Wooden Peg, Built by  
Thomas Murdock for Miss Mary  
Bowditch Forbes on the J. Murray  
Forbes Estate in Milton to House  
a Splendid Collection of Lin-  
colniana and to Serve as an  
Inspiration for Coming  
Generations**

By Margaret Fitzhugh Browne  
*Boston Evening Transcript, 3-12-24*

**N**OTHING brings the life and character of a great man so impressively to mind as seeing the place in which he was born. Particularly is this the case when there is a striking contrast between his origin and his accomplishment; between the setting of the stage for the first helpless appearance of the chief actor, and the subsequent scenes, with their situations of tremendous import and their development of a great character, in the spotlight of world-wide fame in which his name will forever shine.

All lives are interesting and in all there is some dramatic element of circumstance, but these factors in the life of Abraham Lincoln are on a grand scale both because of the inherent big qualities of his mind and because of the far-reaching importance of the questions and situations with which he had to deal. And though his character and achievements stand heroic in stature

by themselves, they loom still larger in scale when considered in the presence of the living conditions from which he sprang.

In bringing these humble beginnings to public realization by building in this part of the country a replica of Lincoln's birthplace, a Milton woman, Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes, has done a real service, not only for Lincoln's memory but for the inspiration which his life should be to future generations.

No demonstration of this sort could be as clear and impressive as one which uses concrete form, which duplicates in reality for the eye to see and the hand to feel the surroundings upon which the baby that was to be Lincoln first opened its eyes. Therefore, Miss Forbes with this in mind, though perhaps indirectly, as her first idea was to provide a place in which to keep her collection of Lincoln pictures and other material, has had built on her place in Milton an exact replica of the log cabin in which Lincoln was born.

**The Enthusiasm of an Artist**

Having decided on this original plan for a home for her treasures, Miss Forbes spared no pains in having the cabin accurate in every detail. Thomas S. Murdock, a Milton carpenter, was entrusted with the building of the cabin, and being an ardent admirer of Lincoln and all he stood for in the way of ideals, he threw himself into the work with all the zeal of an artist. He made a trip to Hodgenville, Kentucky, Lincoln's birthplace, where the original cabin is now preserved, and took careful measurements and notes of its construction.

From Rock Spring Farm, the Lincoln home, he procured a bag of the red clay of that part of the country with which the logs in the Lincoln cabin were cemented. This was matched carefully in color in the cement which he used on the replica, when he undertook to make it for Miss Forbes. He also brought four small trees from the Lincoln farm and

these have been set out near the Milton cabin.

Soon after his return he set to work, and on Nov. 19, 1923, the sixtieth anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg address, the cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremonies. Mrs. George L. Torbert, who was present at the Republican convention when Lincoln was nominated for the presidency, and who often saw him while serving as a nurse during the Civil War, laid the cornerstone. As a young girl she was taken by her father to that stormy session of the Republican convention when Lincoln was nominated, watched the split rails brought in and remembers well the loud shouting and cheering for the "rail-splitter."

The work of building the cabin was no easy task. Every log was hewn by hand by Mr. Murdock. All the logs are mortised at the corners and hand-made wooden pegs were used throughout in the construction, and every detail of the building of the chimney, of the finish, or rather the unfinished, of the interior is carefully copied from the original. The few rough pieces of furniture in the one small room with its fireplace at one end, which takes up the whole of the interior and therefore of course constituted the Lincoln living and sleeping quarters, are antiques picked up by Miss Forbes and are carefully chosen as being suitable to the period, the part of the country and the type of home.

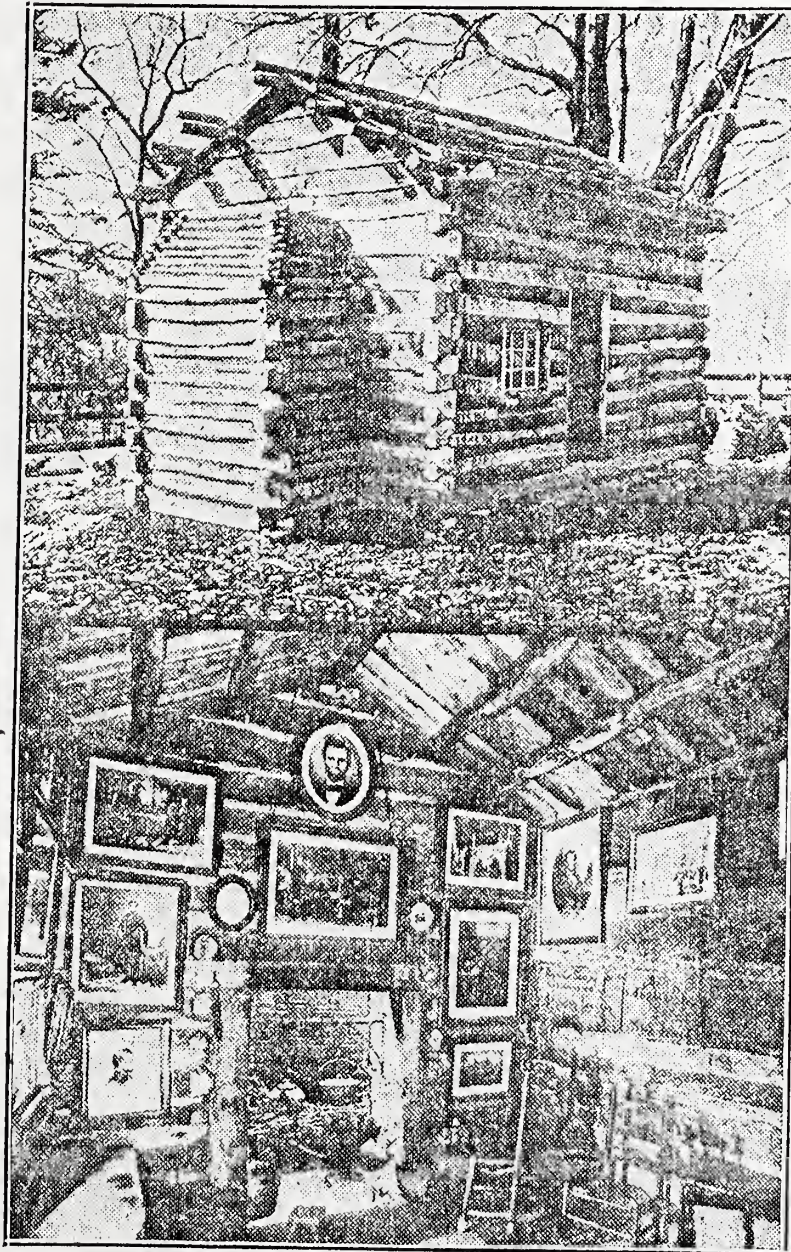
The rough door of plain unfinished boards has a simple wooden latch, which can be lifted from the outside only when the latch string is hanging out through a hole in the doors, and a heavy bar on the inside makes for added security at night. The one little window set in the logs is only to let in light, as it cannot be raised or lowered and in the original what light came through it had to make its way through oiled paper. The fireplace was, of course, both for warmth and cooking and the crane and kettle hanging over it could only have been used to prepare food of the simplest sort.

But interesting as all these details are, the thing which is most impressive when



7, FEBRUARY 11, 1927

## "Lincoln Cabin" Open to Public Tomorrow



### BUILDS REPLICA OF LINCOLN CABIN

Thomas S. Murdock went to Hodgenville, Ky., to study the humble home in which the Emancipator was born, then painstakingly made this copy of it.

Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes' famous "Lincoln Cabin," replica of the humble home in which the great emancipator was born, will be thrown open for public inspection tomorrow. It is located on the Forbes estate at 215 Adams street, Milton.

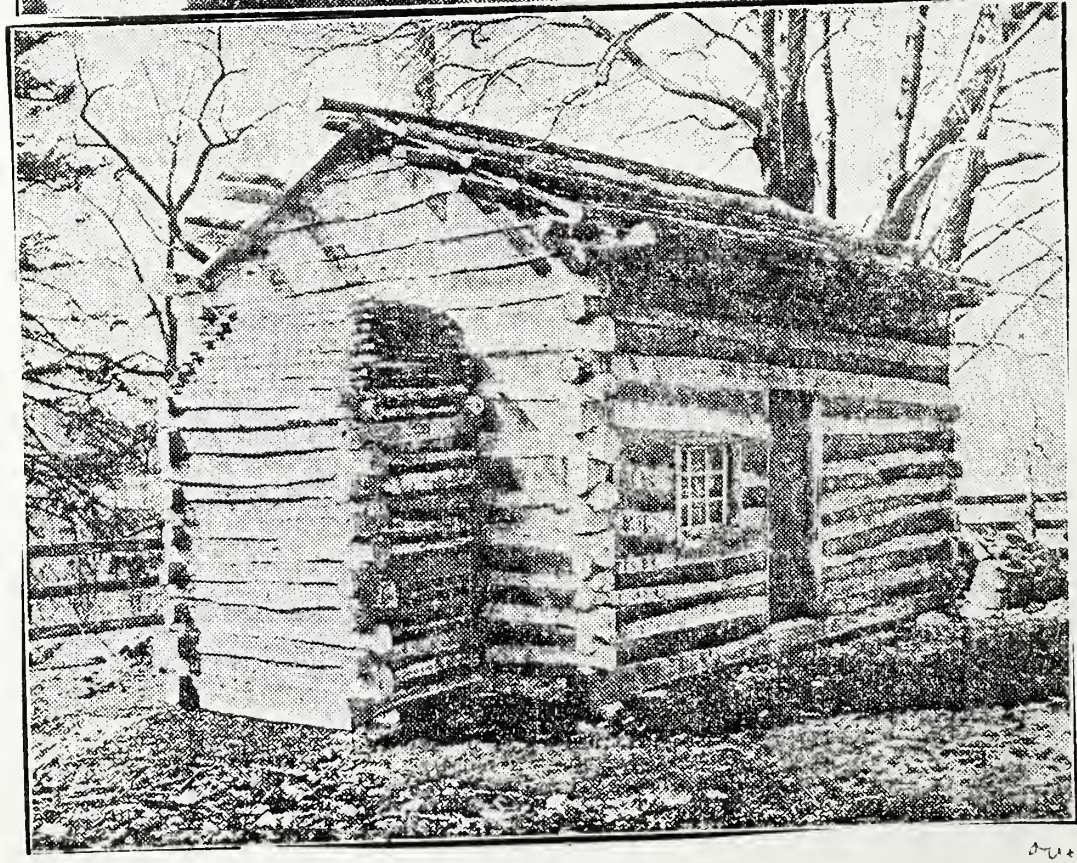
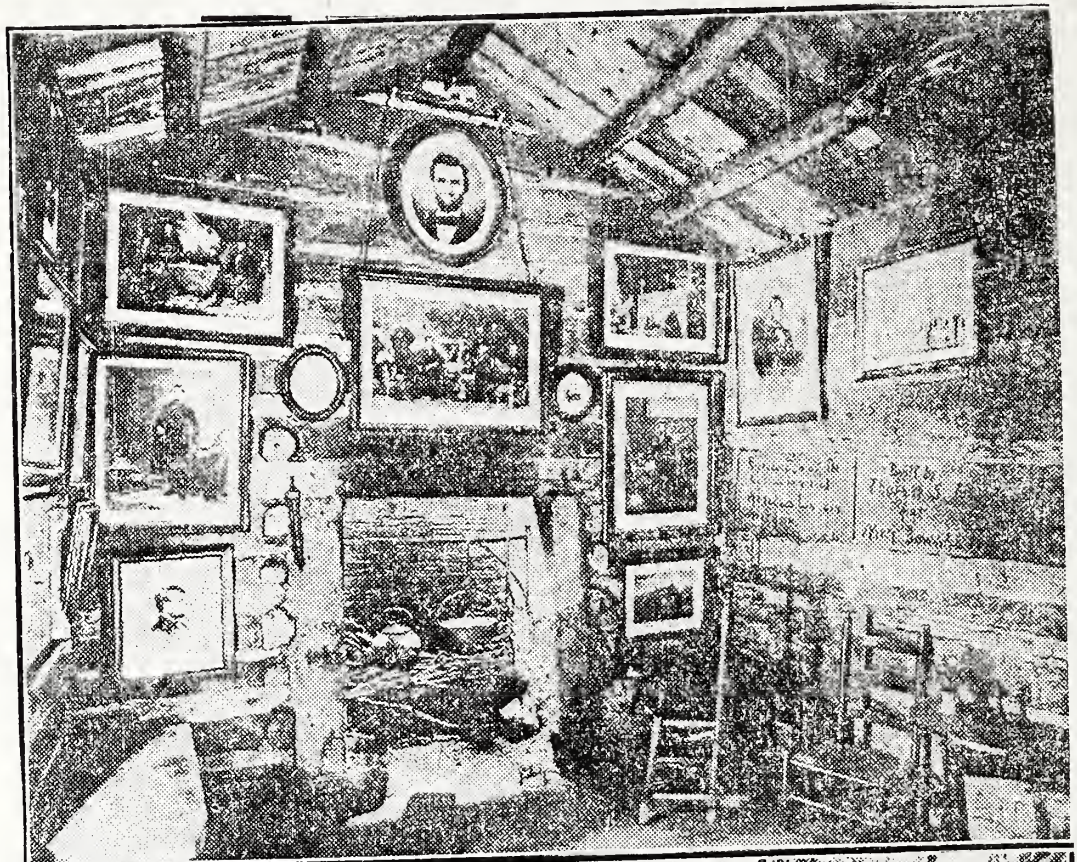
Assisting Miss Forbes in receiving the public will be Adjutant-General Wilfred A. Wetherbee of the Grand Army and members of Huntington P. Wolcott Post of Milton, who will bring their colors. Officers of note on the receiving line will be former Attorney-General Herbert Parker and past Department Commander John C. Martin of Wisconsin, who was on duty at the theatre the night Lincoln was assassinated.

Commander John D. Williams and other comrades of Paul Revere Post of Quincy and Commander Barry Keenan and 10 other members of American Legion Post of Milton will be on hand in uniform to aid in the exercises.



Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes Will Welcome the Public on February 12, 1925 at the Replica of the Lincoln Birthplace Which Has Been Erected on Milton Hill

# the "Lincoln Cabin" in Milton



over



ON Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12, Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes will open to the public the replica of the Lincoln Cabin, which has been erected on the Forbes estate at 215 Adams street, Milton. The public will be received between the hours of two and five. From time to time during the afternoon, Joseph Halloran, tenor, will sing old songs of Lincoln's time, and at four o'clock there will be two short addresses, one by Louis A. Coolidge, head of the Sentinels of the Republic, and one by Stacy B. Southworth of the Loyal Legion and headmaster at Thayer Academy, who

will tell of his father's intimate experiences with Lincoln in war time.

Miss Forbes will be at the cabin to receive visitors, and she will be assisted by Mrs. F. D. White, Mrs. John Balch and Mrs. Ellerton James. Guests will have an opportunity to inspect the interesting collection of Lincoln and Civil War relics which the cabin contains.

Since the formal visit of the Grand Army of the Republic last summer, when the national convention was in session in Boston, Miss Forbes has received a number of valuable additions to her collections of Lin-

colniana. One of the things which has recently been sent to her by one of the veterans is an ornament from Lincoln's hearse. Another is a photograph taken of the President and General McClellan immediately after the battle of Antietam. From one of Lincoln's bodyguard she has received a picture taken of the President as he lay in state at Washington after the assassination.

Only last week, Miss Forbes was the recipient of a note, written by Lincoln to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, in which the President gave instructions for

finding the body of a soldier for the latter's widow. Another prized part of the collection, recently acquired, is an account written by the late Senator Cornelius Cole, describing his impressions as he sat on the platform with Lincoln while the Gettysburg address was being delivered.

From Edison G. Proctor, the last surviving delegate to the Republican convention, at which Lincoln was nominated in 1860, Miss Forbes has received a letter and interesting description of that event. Miss Adella W. Bates of Milton High School has contributed a copy of the extra

edition of the New York Herald which was issued on the morning after the assassination and was preserved by her father, a Civil War veteran. A number of medals have recently been added to the collection, among them being a Proclamation of Emancipation medal.

The cabin was built by Thomas S. Murdock after he had been to Hodgenville, Ky., and had studied the details and taken careful measurements of the original to insure an exact replica. The cornerstone was laid on Nov. 19, 1923, by Mrs. George L. Tolbert, who saw Lincoln nominated.



**Miss Forbes' Cabin in Milton Open To-  
morrow—A New Portrait Will Be  
Shown by Miss Margaret Browne  
— A House and an  
Advertisement**

**T**WICE a year the Lincoln Cabin at 215 Adams street, Milton, is opened by its owner, Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes, so that the general public may visit this shrine to the martyred President whose birthday is celebrated tomorrow. Memorial Day is one of the days when it is open. Lincoln's birthday is the other. Therefore, tomorrow from two to five o'clock in the afternoon any person who wishes to visit the far-famed cabin, which is an exact reproduction of Lincoln's own log cabin, may do so. Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes, who owns one of the finest editions of Lincolniana in the country, will be assisted in receiving the visitors by Miss Helen Nicolay of Washington, D. C., who is the daughter of Abraham Lincoln's private secretary, John George Nicolay. Miss Nicolay, like her father, who wrote with John Hay the life of Abraham Lincoln, has contributed much to Lincoln history, by writing from notes she found in her father's desk, after his death, a book called "Personal Traits of Abraham Lincoln," besides a boys' life of Lincoln.

The speakers of the day will be the Rev. Edward T. Sullivan of Trinity Church, Newton, and Mayor Edwin O. Childs of that town. Mayor Childs will speak at 3 o'clock and Dr. Sullivan at 4 o'clock. The music will be furnished by Bulman's Band, and negro songs will be sung, also a recitation by John Mahoney, a Milton school boy.

**Piece of Lincoln's Rail on View**

A piece of old rail from the cabin built by Abraham Lincoln and John Hanks in 1830 will be exhibited for the first time. The authenticity of this treasure was vouched for by Governor Richard J. Oglesby of Illinois and John Hanks in May, 1865, when this cabin was shown on Boston Common. John Hanks himself stood inside this cabin answering questions, and half the proceeds from this exhibit went to erect a statue to Thomas Lincoln, Lincoln's father. An advertisement at the time says that "General Grant and Staff, His

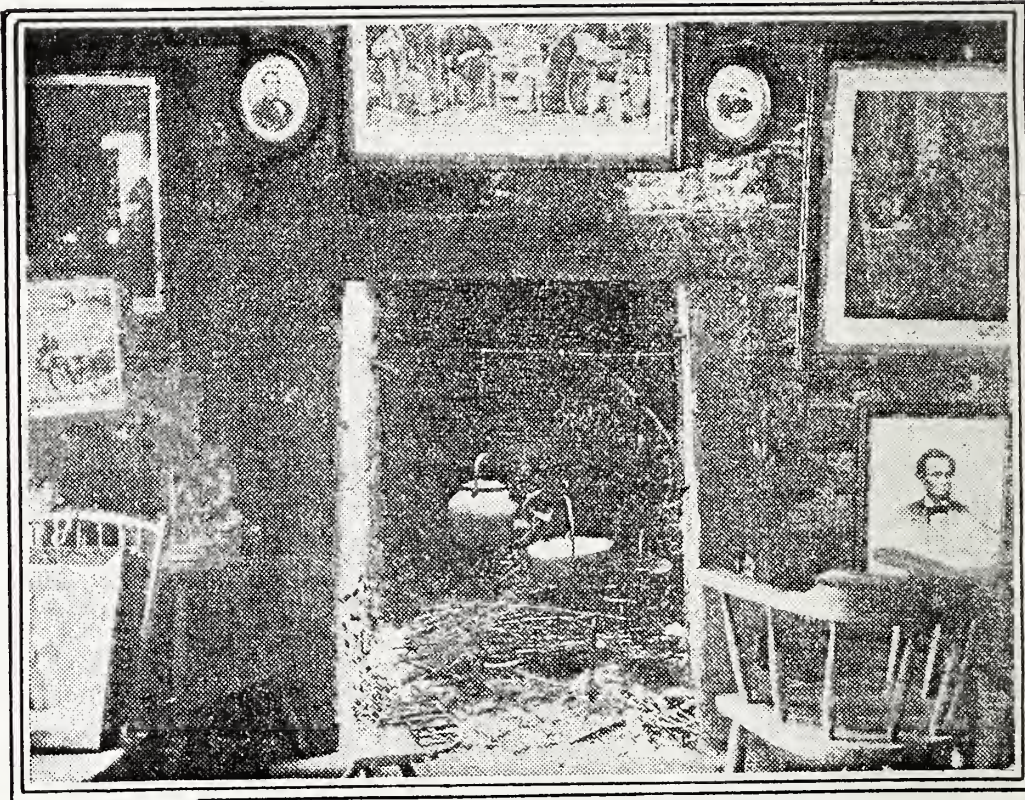
Honor, the Mayor of Boston, Hon. Charles Sumner, and others visited the cabin."

It is undoubtedly from the building of this cabin with Lincoln that John Hanks got the idea of calling Lincoln the "rail-splitter."

Other interesting additions to Miss Forbes's collection, (besides documents signed by Lincoln), will be an ambrotype

of Lincoln taken before he became President, a large tintype of him in Civil War time, and the last photograph of him five days before his death.

A striking portrait of Lincoln in 1860 just painted by Margaret Fitzhugh Browne will be shown in Miss Forbes's family home. This portrait is the result of much study of contemporary pictures of Lincoln, of accounts of his appearance



4—An Interior View of the Cabin at Miss Forbes's Milton Estate, Showing the Fireplace with its Old Kettle and Crane, and Many Items of Lincolniana. The Insert Is a Newly Discovered Newspaper Clipping from the Boston Advertiser of Sept. 18, 1848.

at the time, and of research into newspaper, magazine and biographical data. It is especially striking for its color, which is said to be highly authentic.

Stacy B. Southworth, headmaster of Thayer Academy, and Henry R. Davis, scout-master of Milton, will assist Miss Forbes in carrying out the program. Special invitations have been sent to Commander C. J. Douglas of the Ninth

Regiment Veteran Corps M. V. M. and Captain Barry Keenan, Howitzer Co. of Quincy 101st Infantry. Groups from each of these military organizations are expected to participate in the exercises.

Commander N. S. Barry and comrades of the Milton Post G. A. R. will attend. An interesting visitor will be John S. Dodge, who was a messenger boy to Abraham Lincoln during the last year

of his life, and who was in Ford's Theater on the night of the assassination.

The Lincoln Cabin will be open rain or shine.

A newspaper paragraph of interest to collectors of Lincolniana has recently been discovered in the Massachusetts State Library and a copy is now owned by Miss Forbes. Miss Eleanor P. Martin made the discovery while perusing the

files of the Boston Daily Advertiser. It appeared in the issue of Sept. 16, 1848, and reads as follows:

**WHIG MEETING AT DORCHESTER.**—We are glad to learn that the Hon. Abram Lincoln, of Illinois, and the Hon. Geo. Lunt, of Boston, will address the citizens of Dorchester, on Monday evening next, Sept. 18th, at Richmond Hall, in that town.

*Boston Evening Transcript.  
Feb. 11, 1928*

and achievements stand heroic in stature | small trees from the Lincoln farm and | the thing which is most impressive when.



# LINCOLN HONOR UNITES NATION IN OBSERVANCE

## Cities All Over the United States Pay Tribute to Emancipator

Many thousands of persons in all parts of the United States joined in exercises honoring the memory of Abraham Lincoln on his anniversary Sunday.

Typical of the many exercises was a gathering of 15,000 persons in Milton, Mass., at a cabin on the estates of Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes, which is a reproduction of that in which Lincoln was born. This was not far from the town of Hingham, where Lincoln's forbears are reputed to have lived.

The importance of the example of Lincoln to the youth of America, proving that honesty and industry can make for the highest success regardless of beginnings, was stressed by Edwin O. Childs, Mayor of Newton, Mass., at this meeting. Here, as at other gatherings of the

kind, members of the Grand Army of the Republic had a prominent place.

A message by President Coolidge, read in the Hall of Fame, New York University, at a service in which Boy Scouts laid a wreath beneath the bust of the sixteenth President, paid special tribute to Lincoln's mother and said of the man:

"In wisdom great, but in humility greater, in justice strong, but in compassion stronger, he became a leader of men by being a follower of the truth. He overcame evil with good. His presence filled the Nation. He broke the might of oppression. He restored a race to its birthright. Men show by what they worship what they are. It is no accident that before the great example of American manhood our people stand with respect and reverence."

Miss Ida M. Tarbell, speaking at Lowell, Mass., on "The Life of Lincoln," commented on the efforts recently made by herself and others to collect the letters written by him. She has obtained about 300 of these in five years, and others have gathered some 200.

"President Lincoln's published letters appeal to us not as a hero,

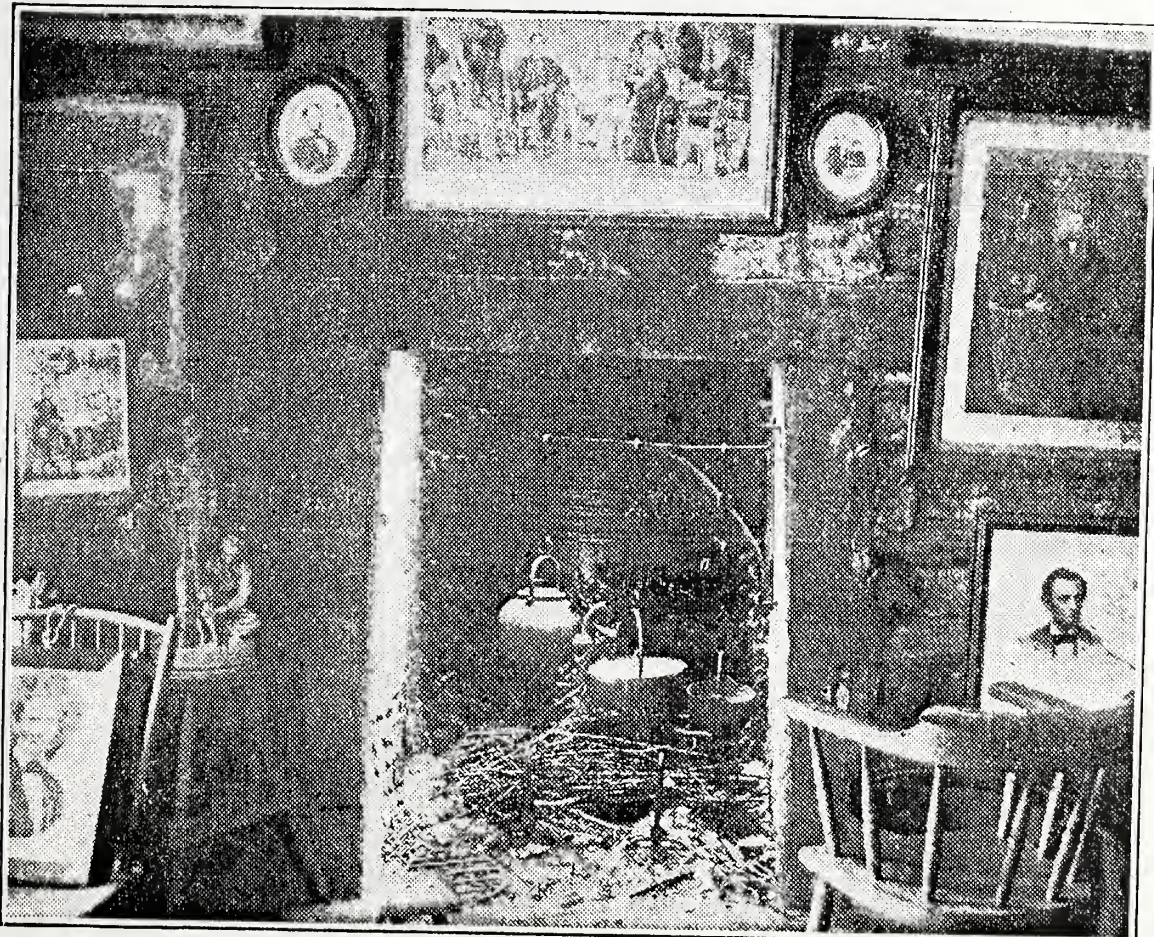
but as a human being," she said. In the one she has most recently acquired, Lincoln took time in the middle of his campaign in 1860 to write to a young friend of his son Robert, encouraging the youth to continue his studies though he had been disappointed in not making the required rank for admission to Harvard University. Miss Tarbell related.

Congregations in a number of churches in Greater Boston listened to addresses by Negro clergymen on the progress made by the colored race since Lincoln's time, and in other churches in many parts of the United States problems of the Negro were considered in an observance of race relations Sunday sponsored by the Federal Council of Churches. The Rev. Henry Hugh Proctor of the Church of the Nazarene, Brooklyn, N. Y., was one of those who spoke in Boston.

An historian's view of Lincoln was given before the Boston Ethical Society by Dr. David Muzzey of Columbia University, who said, "He was master of men because he was master of himself. He always had his mind under absolute control; early in life he showed an insatiable thirst for clarity of thought and judgment. 'Honest Abe' was a tribute not to ordinary honesty alone, but to the fact that he was always honest with himself."

*Christian Science Monitor*  
2-13-15

## Before a Fireplace Like This Lincoln Studied

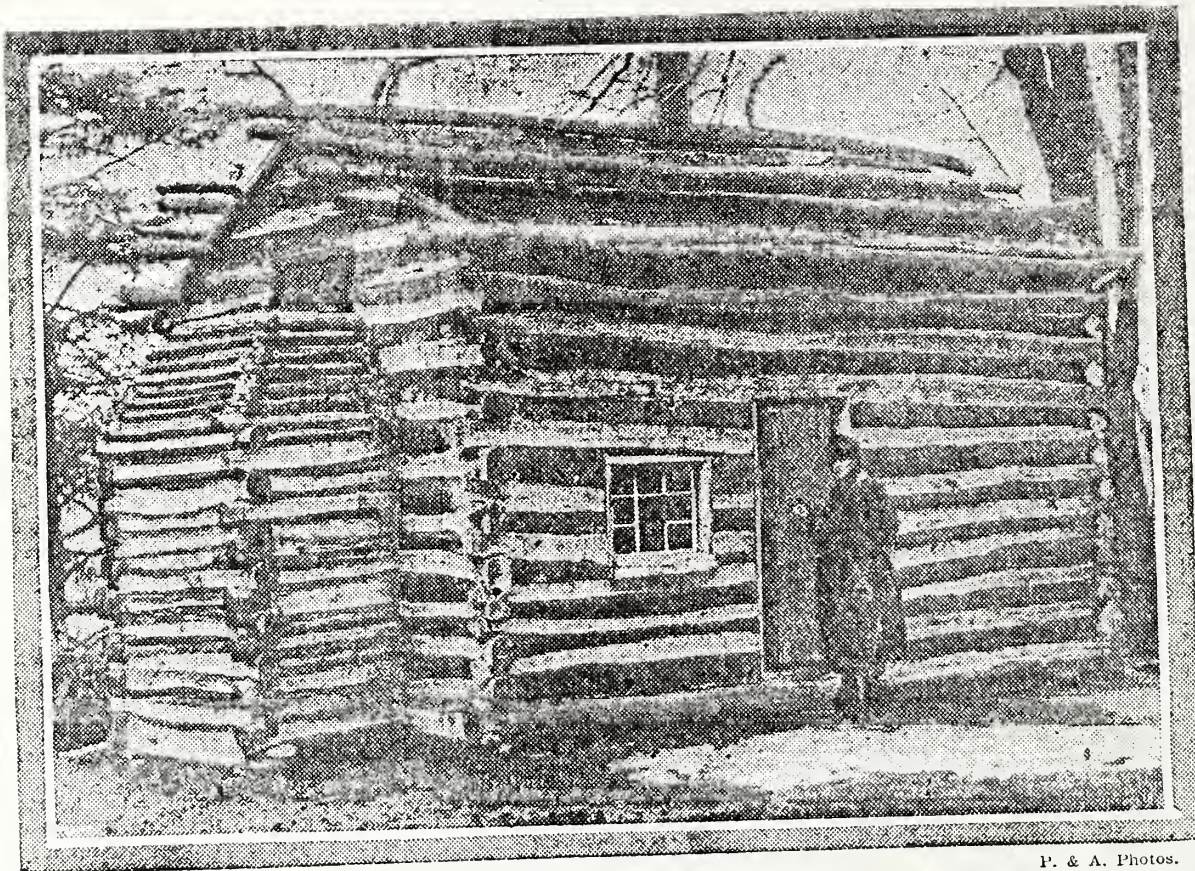


As Nearly as It Could Be Made, This Cabin on the Estate of Mary Bowditch Forbes at Milton, Mass., Reproduces the Birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. Even to the Number of Logs in the Original Cabin Has This Copy Been Built. On the Anniversary of the Great Emancipator, the Estate Was the Goal For the Pilgrimage of Thousands Who Took Delight in Visiting the Cabin and Viewing Its Collection of Relics.

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REPLICA OF LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE. 2/12/25



P. & A. Photos.

Mary Bowditch Forbes has built on her estate at Milton, Mass., a cabin complete in detail of the original home of the martyred President.



## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Address by

Louis A. Coolidge - February 12, 1925

At The Lincoln Cabin Built for Mary Bowditch Forbes  
In Milton, Massachusetts

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Abraham Lincoln - born in a cabin just like this - one door - one window - a bare, earthen floor - the rough surroundings of the forest - food, clothing, comforts only such as woodsmen could contrive; infrequent contact with the world outside - no beauty except nature's beauty, the wild flowers and the foliage of the trees - no music save the singing of the birds, the sighing of the wind - no books except the Bible - his teacher an unlettered, loving mother - his church God's sky and stars - Abraham Lincoln!

What germ of genius lay within the tiny thing that nestled in his mother's arms? Whose vision could have caught the entrancing beauty of his crudely cradled soul? Who could have prophesied from such a seed the world-encircling vine, from whose grapes should be pressed a sacramental wine to sanctify men's noblest aims? It is a miracle - although no more a miracle than life itself - yet a peculiar miracle in this: that from such soil there should have sprung a universal personality in tune with every race, with every rank, with every creed. His fame illumines capitals and hamlets; his sinewy sentences inspire the song of poets and kindle scholars in the universities; statesmen and diplomats study his way of handling policies and men. Wisdom and depth of feeling walk hand in hand in every line he wrote; philosophy, love, tolerance, charity, forgiveness, magnanimity. He knew no difference in men's souls. Generous in praise, untainted by suspicion, ambitious, as men rightly are, yet modest, self-effacing, an open heart, an open mind, loving his fellows, grieving in their grief, and glad in their success. A man of peace summoned to war, he led his people with a firm and gentle hand, not dallying with the enemy but to the vanquished merciful. He knew the hearts of those who loved their States perhaps too dearly, and comprehending as he did the Federal Union, after the triumph of the Union Army and the liberation of the slave he would have welcomed all to their old places in the sisterhood of states.

He thought himself a plain and ordinary man. He would have been bewildered had he seen the glistening temple his countrymen have raised by the Potomac in his name. This cabin symbolizes his beginning; the temple - his untarnished fame.

It is the child born in the cabin whom we now commemorate, the child who grew to be a man of tender heart, of deep emotion, of sympathy, and of simplicity - of generous and genuine life - the richest, ripest, sweetest, noblest fruitage of the land for which he gave his life, our land of boundless opportunity - Abraham Lincoln!



# SOUTHWORTH IN ADDRESS ON "THE LINCOLN CABIN"

## Tells Dorchester Historical Society About Milton Shrine

Stacy B. Southworth, headmaster at Thayer Academy, South Braintree, recently delivered an interesting address on the "Genesis and Significance of Lincoln Cabin" at a meeting of the Dorchester Historical Society.

Professor Kenneth Murdock of Harvard followed with a talk on "A Glimpse of the Puritans." Mr. Southworth's address reads as follows:

### Mr. Southworth's Address

"I am sorry indeed that Mary Bowditch Forbes, that noble patriot of Milton Hill, cannot be here this evening to give you intimately her absorbing story of the Lincoln Cabin.

"She it is who has had the vision of providing a replica of the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln and filling it with precious Lincoln memorials; and she it is who should be the interpreter of her purpose and hope for the Lincoln Cabin; but modesty forbids her to speak on a subject so near and dear to her heart.

"Were Miss Forbes here tonight her thoughts would radiate a tribute of love for life, the character, and the memory of Abraham Lincoln. With an appreciation that is sincere and deep and a vision that is clear and true she has sensed that Abraham Lincoln's heroic service to this nation, his nobility of character, his unforgettable personality, and the inspiration from on high that was breathed through his soul, would enshrine him in the thoughts and hearts of his countrymen and make his memory more and more abiding from generation to generation.

"And she has been glad to do her noble bit to secure Abraham Lincoln's immortality to New England, which she loves and cherishes.

"So the idea of a replica of the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born came vividly to her mind, a Lincoln cabin moved, as it were, to Milton Hill, filled with Lincoln momentos, clearly portraying the man and the times in which he lived, — a sort of Lincoln shrine where, as Miss Forbes has admirably expressed it, "young and old, rich and poor, and people of every diverging interest may meet as Americans in a common love of Abraham Lincoln."

"In this thought of a cabin Miss Forbes had in mind particularly the service she could render the youth of New England. The youth have responded During the past four years thousands of young people, representing nearly every race and rank and creed, have visited the Cabin on either Lincoln or Memorial Day and visualized Abraham Lincoln's humble beginnings



STACY B. SOUTHWORTH

Photo by Rice

Day with eager anticipation to pay tribute of love to "Father Abraham."

### Former Slaves Are Visitors

"I have heard Miss Forbes say that she has had visits at the Cabin from several old-time slaves, one of whom was sold on the block. One very old darky from the South said, as he stepped inside the Cabin for the first time, "I feel as if de Lord was in dis place."

"Whether the Lord was there or not, a good many followers of His have been there, and they have left the Cabin, as this old darky did, invigorated and inspired.

"The work of building this Cabin was long and arduous. In the early fall of 1923 Miss Forbes secured the consent of the Kentucky Historical Society to send her builder, Thomas S. Murdock, to Hodgenville to inspect and measure the Lincoln Cabin with a view to building. For several days Mr. Murdock studied the details and then returned to Milton, prepared to construct for Miss Forbes a replica of the original Lincoln Cabin.

"On November 19, 1923, on the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburgh, the corner stone of this Cabin was laid by Mrs. George L. Torbett, who was an eye witness of that dramatic convention in Chicago which nominated Abraham Lincoln as the Republican candidate for the Presidency in 1860.

"It may seem a bit odd to speak of the corner stone of the Lincoln Cabin. The Kentucky Cabin of course had no corner stone but Mr. Murdock had to reckon with our New England winters—and a corner stone became imperative. But the floor of the Milton Cabin is bare ground,

consciousness of the patriotic mission which the Cabin was there to fulfill.

"Mr. Coolidge's work for the Cabin is done, but the sweet and tender memory of the service that he rendered will abide both as an inspiration and a challenge. Last May at the Cabin an affectionate memorial tribute was paid to him for the noble work he had done as a sentinel of the Republic.

"Loyal men and women have answered Mr. Coolidge's challenge and responded to the call for service at the Cabin.

"In February, 1926, Honorable Henry R. Rathbone, Congressman from Illinois, whose father, Major Rathbone, sat in the box at the Ford Theatre with Lincoln on the night of the assassination, spoke feelingly of Lincoln's heroic qualities and powerful example of his life.

"In February, 1927, Miss Helen Nicolay, daughter of the distinguished Lincoln historian, John George Nicolay, who was grown up in an atmosphere where the revered memory of Lincoln is an ever present reality, visited the Cabin and voiced her affectionate appreciation.

"From Massachusetts a number of distinguished citizens have come to speak and visit the Cabin. Among them I would mention Cardinal O'Connell, Honorable Miah Murray, Markham Stackpole of Milton, Melville Freeman of Boston, and Mayor Edwin O. Childs and the Reverend Edward T. Sullivan, of Trinity Church, Newton, the speakers at the Cabin on Lincoln Day last February.

"I would not forget in this brief summary John Mahoney, the young Milton schoolboy, who by his patriotic declamation has done his part so well in assisting Miss Forbes, nor would I forget the Bowman Alhambra Band that has rendered so effectively the plantation melodies and the patriotic music of the Civil War.

### Tribute To G. A. R.

"I know Miss Forbes would want me tonight to express her gratitude to the aged veterans of the G. A. R., who each year have responded to the call of the Lincoln Cabin. Commander Barry, of the Milton Post, has been the staunchest kind of sentinel of this Republic.

"How much these Veterans have for us of inspiration and benediction as the lengthening shadows mark the evening of their day. It will not be long now before the last one who heard the voice of Abraham Lincoln, or grasped his hand, will have gone from the earth. And then what?

"A few weeks before my Father died—he was one of those officers from Massachusetts who fought for the Union and grasped the hand of Abraham Lincoln—he left me with a poem, two stanzas of which are ringing in my ears tonight:

"When the Comrades have departed,  
when the Veterans are no more,  
When the bugle call has sounded on  
the everlasting shore,  
When life's weary march is ended,  
when the campfires slumber long,  
Who will tell the story when the  
boys in Blue are gone?

Sons and daughters of this Nation.

*Young Patriot Ledger. Nov 16 - 1928*



# 15,000 GATHER IN HONOR OF LINCOLN

## Exercises Held at Replica of Cabin On Forbes Estate, Milton— Mayor Childs Speaks

BOSTON GLOBE 2-13-1928

MILTON, Feb 12—The memory of Abraham Lincoln, the great emancipator, was recalled here this afternoon when upward of 15,000 persons from all sections gathered to pay tribute to the child of the wilderness. The Lincoln cabin on the Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes estate, Milton Hill, a replica

of the birthplace of the 16th President of the United States, was the rendezvous for the throng, the cabin located in a valley, surrounded by the hills, making a picturesque setting for the exercises.

Mayor Edwin O. Childs of Newton, the principal speaker, sounded the keynote of true Americanism and practical Christianity, stressing the need of the youth of the land to emulate the example of Lincoln, who, by application and without means, rose from the humblest beginning to the highest position within the gift of the people.

"We are all willing to admit that Lincoln was a great man, great in what he said and greater in what he did," said Mayor Childs. "I am not so sure he said all the things they say about him, but he said enough and did enough to make all Americans and all those who love freedom and who appreciate democracy his debtor."

### "Great American"

"Lincoln was not only a great man, but a great American," said the speaker. "Every boy and girl here this afternoon knows George Washington was the founder of this great Nation, but Abraham Lincoln was her savior, and he was the greatest, strangest and strongest man this country has ever produced."

He pointed out that Lincoln's life was the sweetest memory in American history, "and his death the saddest in all history since the heart of Bethlehem broke upon the cross."

"Born in a log cabin. Why was that his home?" he asked. "Because his mother was there." That gave him a start, and here the speaker paid tribute to the mother of the home, her kindly eyes glowing with sympathy for its success and training of the children.

"The things that some people think count these days, Lincoln did not have," said Mayor Childs, "yet he rose to the highest position in the land." He emphasized in his address that there is not a boy or girl in Greater Boston who has not 10, yes 100 times the opportunity to make good, that Abraham Lincoln had.

He urged the boys and girls to take care of their health and have strong bodies. "Lincoln inherited his mother's goodness, her morality and religion. All that I am I owe to my mother," he said.

He asked: "How many boys and girls growing up today in the years to come are going to say they owe all that they have to their mothers?"

### Mother's Influence

The speaker then pictured the home life of Lincoln, his desire to read good books and the influence of his mother, who prayed. "It is good to have a praying mother," he said. He told a little story of a boy who did not want to say his prayers as he was tucked into bed. "Do you pray, mother," asked the boy. She courageously said she did not. "Does father pray?" "No, he does not," was the mother's reply. "Then is it fair to make me pray for the whole family?"

Mayor Childs urged the necessity for boys and girls to read good books. "Every boy and girl should remember this. Lincoln did not read trash, such as is thrown at us today." He said a librarian told him the foreign boys and girls are spending much time in the libraries reading the lives of Washington, Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and Jefferson, and the native-born boys and girls are just reading novels.

He concluded with an appeal for the spirit of true Americanism and the capacity to live for an idea.

### Old Rail From Cabin

The Lincoln cabin was open for inspection from 2 to 5 and so great was the throng that Miss Forbes will probably open the cabin to the public this Spring.

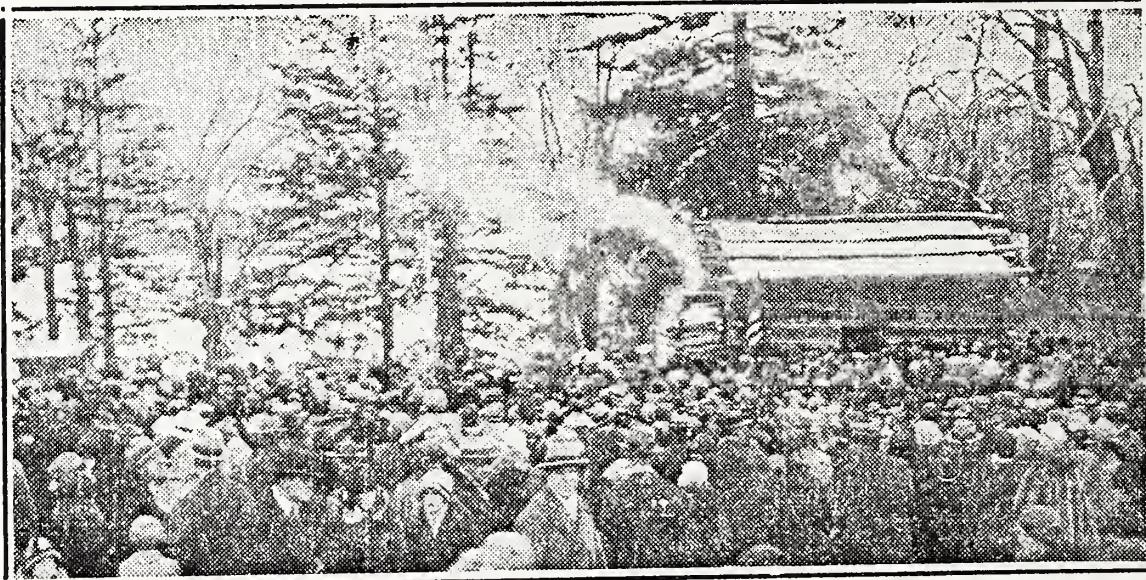
The people were given an opportunity to see several interesting additions which Miss Forbes has made to her notable collection of Lincolniana. Most interesting is an old rail from the cabin built by Abraham Lincoln and John Hanks in 1830, documents signed by Lincoln and an ambrotype of him taken before he became President, also a large tintype in Civil War time and a photograph taken of him five days before his death.

Among the guests were Miss Helen Nicolay of Washington, D C, daughter of Abraham Lincoln's private secretary, John George Nicolay. Miss Nicolay has contributed much to Lincoln history. Stacey B. Southworth, headmaster of Thayer Academy, and Henry R. Davis, Scout master in Milton, assisted Miss Forbes during the exercises.

Commander C. J. Douglas and members of the 9th Regiment Veteran Corps. M. V. M.; Past Commander ~~Barry Keegan of Milton Post, American Legion~~, and now captain of the Howitzer Company, 101st Infantry, of Quincy, with Lieuts Lorenzo Shields and C. Earl Bostick and 30 members; Ladies' Auxillary of the Howitzer Company, headed by Mrs Lorenzo Shields; Post 102, G. A. R., Commander N. S. Barry, and Milton Post, A. L., Commander William Wadsworth.



## SHOWING PART OF CROWD ABOUT REPLICA OF THE LINCOLN CABIN



## SOME OF THE VETERANS WHO TOOK PART IN EXERCISES AT LINCOLN CABIN



Left to Right—Joseph Farrell, Nathaniel Barry, Henry Comey and Horace Plummer, chaplain, Roger Wolcott Post, G. A. R., Milton; Isaac Sloane, Framingham





*Anniversary a Grateful Nation Observes Next Thursday*

A REPLICA OF THE CABIN IN WHICH HE WAS BORN, at Hodgenville, Ky., built by Mary Bowditch Forbes to house her collection of Lincolniana at Milton, Mass. Visitors by the thousand come to see this replica and to hear distinguished speakers each Lincoln's birthday.

Lucille Douglas, reproduced by courtesy of Knickerbocker's galleries



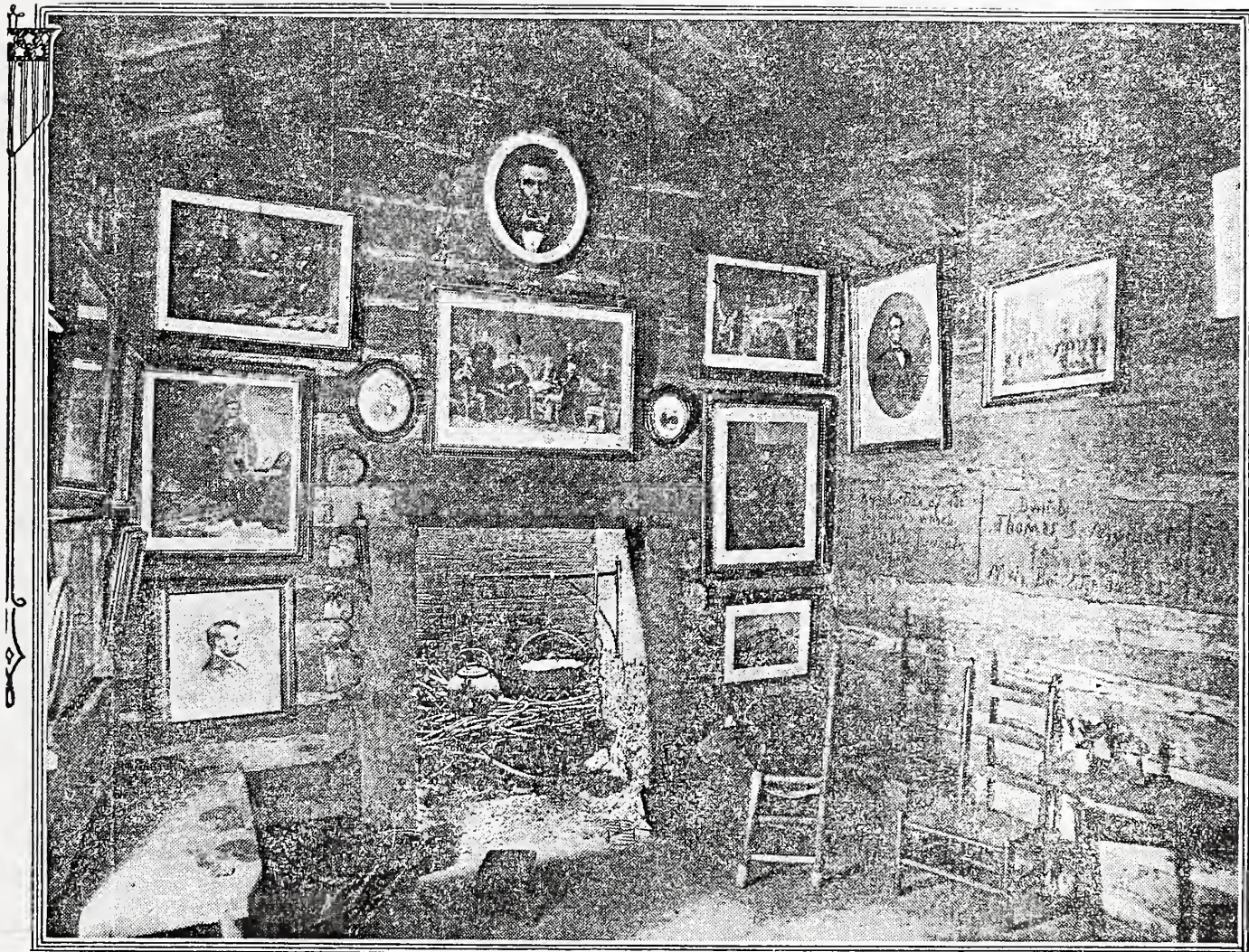


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—An Exact Reproduction of the Birthplace of Abraham Lincoln on the Mary Bowditch Forbes Estate at Milton, Containing the Exact Number of Logs and Other Minute Details of the Birthplace of the President. In This Cabin on Lincoln's Birthday, Miss Forbes Will Receive the Public and Exhibits Hundreds of Rare Relics.





round a bend in the pathway, the cabin is first seen, under a big pine tree, in its small dimensions. Much as one has been prepared since schooldays for the humble aspects of Lincoln's birthplace, it is positively an emotional shock to see that playhouse log cabin 17 feet long, by 12 feet wide and 11 feet high. It is hard to realize that the great man came out of this.

Wonder and interest grow on crossing the threshold, for in that little room, which is nothing more than an enclosed patch of ground 17 by 12 feet, was yet the scene of every phase of the family life, was born the baby who was to be President of the United States and guide the Union through the most critical time in its history.

#### A Pictorial Record

Different episodes from Lincoln's life are brought to mind by the pictures—old prints and photographs—which hang from wooden pegs on the wall and this collection which Miss Forbes has started promises to become of even greater value and interest than it is now.

She already has a note written in Lincoln's own hand on a card to his Secretary of War, evidently sent to him as a memorandum or passed to him in some meeting. She has old engravings of Lincoln and his cabinet, a large one of a grand reception of the notabilities of the nation at the White House in 1865, which shows Lincoln shaking hands with a lady, while Grant, Sherman, Gideon Wells and others stand

by in the erinoline throng. Then there is a Rogers group called "The Council of War" with Lincoln seated and Grant and Gideon Wells, in an unstudied attitude polishing his glasses, standing beside him. An old engraving shows Lincoln on horseback in front of his house in Springfield, Ill., with an enthusiastic populace acclaiming their hero who has just received his presidential nomination. There are also old photographs and daguerreotypes of the Lincoln family, a fine and not often reproduced head of Lincoln which was used for his campaign posters, a framed facsimile of a copy of his Gettysburg address, made by him for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Fair in Baltimore in 1864, one of the famous letters to Mrs. Bixby of Boston who had lost five sons in the war, and also a Captain's commission signed by Lincoln.

A beginning has been made along individual lines in adding to the collection, which might easily result in increasing historical records in the way of anecdotes. Miss Forbes has made a special point wherever she has been of talking to older men and women who might have known Lincoln personally, or at least have seen him upon some public occasion, and of asking them to give her a written account of their meeting with him. Of these she has the story of Mr. Jedediah Strangman, eighty-three years old, now living in Dorchester, who served three years in the Army of the Potomac and who tells of the cordial reception given him and his

comrades when they arrived in Washington as raw recruits. They were ushered into the White House, he writes, by a colored man, who showed them to a room where writing materials were furnished them, so that they might write letters home. Soon the President came in and shook hands with them all and wished them good luck.

#### The Kind Heart of Lincoln

Another account of a meeting with Lincoln was furnished by James H. Wood, an old seaman of Nantucket. In 1865 he was serving on board the S. S. Sassacus, which happened to be one of the convoy which escorted Lincoln up the James River to Richmond. The President was on a visit to the fleet at the time of Richmond's surrender. The Nantucket seaman, then a boy, remembered the incident well and wrote,—"After Richmond surrendered and things got quiet we took the lead up the James River followed by the Flagship, Melvorn, which had Admiral Porter and President Lincoln. At Richmond Lincoln landed and stepped across the boat I was in. As he did so he put one hand on my shoulder and one in my hand saying, 'It's all over, boy. You can go home and see your mother.' He was a wonderful man."

The Lincoln cabin is on the estate of J. Murray Forbes, Adams street, Milton Hill, and it is to be open to the public on Saturday, March 15, from two to five in

#### ILLUSTRATIONS

LEFT—The Duplicate of the Cabin in Which Abraham Lincoln Was Born, on the Forbes Estate in Milton.

RIGHT—The Interior of the Cabin, Showing the Collection of Lincoln Pictures and Other Interesting Material.



the afternoon. A small admission is to be charged and the proceeds are to go to the Sentinels of the Republic, a patriotic organization of which Louis N. Coolidge is president, James Jackson, Jr., treasurer and Mrs. John Balch secretary, in order to help carry on its work of safe-guarding the Constitution and maintaining the ideals of self-government under a Republic. Added interest and local color will be furnished on this occasion of the opening of the log-cabin to the public by the playing of Civil War tunes by eight members of the band from the Cecil W. Fogg Post of the American Legion of Hyde Park. This band was selected to go out to Chicago to play at the recent convention of the American Legion.



# LINCOLN LETTER AT HARVARD DISCUSSES ANCESTRAL HOME

Whether Emancipator's Forebears First Settled at Hingham, Mass., a Long Debated Question—Reproduction of Famous Log Cabin Opened at Milton

In December, 1859, Abraham Lincoln wrote, in his own hand, a letter, a transcript of which is in Widener Library at Harvard University, which sought to make clear from his own knowledge of his family's history how inevitable was the uncertainty as to whether his ancestors had been among those Lincolns who came across the water and settled in Hingham, Mass., in the seventeenth century.

The man, whose memory is being celebrated today, wrote: "I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia of undistinguished families, second families, perhaps. I should say that my mother was of a family named Hanks, some of whom now reside in Adams County, and others in Mason County, Illinois. My paternal grandfather, Abraham, emigrated from Rock County, Virginia, to Kentucky, in 1781-2, where a year or two later he was killed by Indians; not in battle, but by stealth when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest. His ancestors, who were Quakers, went to Virginia from Berks County, Pennsylvania. An effort to identify them with the New England family of the same name ended in nothing more definite than a similarity in Christian names in both families, such as Enoch, Levi, Mordecai, Solomon, Abraham and the like."

## History of the Lincolns

It is set forth in the "Lincoln Families of Massachusetts," published in 1865 in Boston by D. Clapp & Son, that all the Lincolns in the country are the descendants of those Lincolns who first settled at Hingham on the South Shore of Massachusetts. That when any particular Lincoln family, even in the remotest parts of the country, has been traced to the place of its settlement, it has been found to be Hingham and when it could not be traced to Hingham it could not be traced to any other place.

This version, which has been compiled by a lineal descendent of the Hingham Lincolns, goes on to show that much evidence has been collected which, while it has not proven conclusively that the President's ancestors settled in Hingham, lends considerable support to the opinion that they did. Hingham was formally settled in 1635 by the Rev. Percy Hobart. In 1636 houselots were granted Thomas Lincoln, miller; to Thomas Lincoln, weaver, and to Thomas Lincoln, cooper. In 1638 grants were also made to Thomas Lincoln, husbandman, and to Stephen Lincoln, his brother. In 1644 it was Daniel Lincoln, who was one of the "young men" of the settlement, and in 1637 Samuel Lincoln, brother of Thomas, the weaver, came to this country and settled also in Hingham.

Miss Bowditch has received a number of valuable additions to her collection of Lincolniana lately and especially since the convention of the Grand Army of the Republic was held in Boston last summer. A veteran recently sent Miss Bowditch an ornament from the Lincoln funeral carriage. A photograph of the President and General McClellan, immediately after the battle of Antietam has also been received, as well as a picture hitherto little known of the President.

Last week Miss Forbes received a note written by Lincoln to Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, in which the President gave certain important instructions. Another document, recently acquired, is an account written by Senator Cornelius Cole, describing his impressions as he sat on the platform with Lincoln while the Gettysburg address was being delivered.

## Address in Lincoln "Cabin"

The replica of the Lincoln Cabin was built by Thomas S. Murdock after he had visited Hodgenville, Ky., to study the details and take the careful measurements that would insure an exact copy. The corner stone was laid on Nov. 19, 1923, by Mrs. George L. Tolbert, who saw "the lad of the forest, scion of Kentucky, Indiana rail-splitter, Mississippi boatman, and frontier storekeeper" nominated for the presidency of the United States.

In making the Lincoln Day address at the cabin this afternoon Louis A. Coolidge said in part: "Abraham Lincoln was born in a cabin just like this. One door, one window, the rough surroundings of the forest. Infrequent contact with the world outside, no beauty except nature's beauty. No books except the Bible. Lincoln's fame illumines capitals and hamlets now; his sinewy sentences inspire the song of poets and kindle scholars in the universities; wisdom and depth of feeling walk hand in hand in every line he wrote, philosophy, love, tolerance, charity, forgiveness, magnanimity. A man of peace, plunged into war, leading his people

## Search of Ancestry Record

It is in the direction of Samuel Lincoln that search has been made for the ancestry of the President. Samuel's sons were Daniel, Mordecai, and Thomas, and among others of his grandsons were Mordecai, Abraham, and Isaac. In 1848 the President wrote another letter to a friend in which he said, "My father's name is Thomas. My grandfather's name was Abraham. Grandfather went from Rockingham County in Virginia to Kentucky about 1782. We have had a vague tradition in the family that my great-grandfather went from Pennsylvania to Virginia and that he was a Quaker. Further than this I have never heard anything." Later in the same year the President wrote, "I think I have heard that my grandfather had four brothers, Isaac, Jacob, Josiah, and Thomas. It is my father's understanding that Abraham, Mordecai, and Thomas are old family names of ours." Upon this similarity in names has depended much substantiation of the Hingham connection, for it is well known that these were names found among the first Hingham settlers.

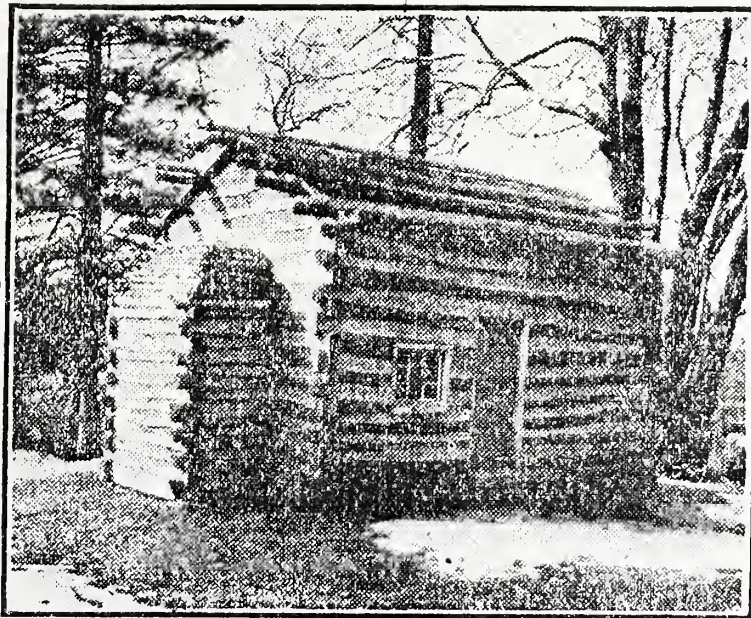
President Lincoln first came to New England in 1843. He campaigned then in Worcester, Lowell, Dedham, Roxbury, Chelsea and Cambridge, and on Sept. 22 made an address in Tremont Temple. Successful as the speeches were at the time, they were not long remembered and five years later it was said that Lincoln was practically forgotten, largely unknown in New England. Twelve years later he returned to New England upon another mission as is well known.

Thus the controversy which seeks, by its settlement to definitely relate the great President to the history of Hingham, does not materially progress. The supposition that the early settlers, about whom much information is available, were his ancestors satisfies many more people, however, than it leaves in doubt.

## Replica of Lincoln Cabin

No celebration of the Lincoln anniversary could be complete without a pilgrimage to the replica of the Lincoln Cabin which Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes opened on her estate at 215 Adams Street in Milton today.





Reproduction of the Lincoln Cabin, Milton, Mass., Built by Thomas S. Murdock for Mary Bowditch Forbes.

with a firm, gentle hand, not dallying with the enemy but to the vanquished merciful. He thought himself a plain and ordinary man. He would have been bewildered had he seen the glistening temple his countrymen have raised on the Potomac in his name. This cabin symbolizes his beginning, the temple—his untarnished fame."

Enhanced by the capacities of the radio to spread word of the ceremonies doing Lincoln honor last night and today, schools and clubs, churches and societies of both political and social significance paused and, with authentic songs, with instrumental music known to the people of Lincoln's time and enduring to the present in fragrant memory, with speeches and patriotic exercises, paid tribute to the man who rose to so high a place in the chronicle of his country from so humble an origin. Negro citizens of Greater Boston will hold a service in People's Baptist Church, Temple and Camden streets, in joint commemoration of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The meeting will be under the auspices of the local branch of the National Equal Rights League.

now on file in the County Clerk's office in Springfield, Ill. That vote was cast years before the Republican Party came into existence.

At Springfield may be found the ballot on which Lincoln cast his first vote after reaching the age of 21. He had been old enough in February, 1830, but it was not until Aug. 1, 1831, that he had the opportunity to vote. This was the election for a Representative to Congress and some local officials, as the records show.



# ABRAHAM LINCOLN

From the address by Louia A. Coolidge, Feb. 12, 1925, at the Lincoln Cabin in Milton.

Abraham Lincoln—born in a cabin just like this—one door—one window—a bare, earthen floor—the rough surroundings of the forest—food, clothing, comforts only such as woodsmen could contrive; infrequent contact with the world outside—no beauty except nature's beauty, the wild flowers and the foliage of the trees—no music save the singing of the birds, the sighing of the wind—no books except the Bible—his teacher an unlettered, loving mother—his church God's sky and stars—Abraham Lincoln!

What germ of genius lay within the tiny thing that nestled in his mother's arms? Whose vision could have caught the entrancing beauty of his crudely cradled soul? Who could have prophesied from such a seed the world-encircling vine, from whose grapes should be pressed a sacramental wine to sanctify men's noblest aims? It is a miracle—although no more a miracle than life itself—yet a peculiar miracle in this: that from such soil there should have sprung a universal personality in tune with every race, with every rank, with every creed. His fame illumines capitals and hamlets; his tences inspire poets and kin—the universi—and diplomats of handling men. Wisdom feeling walk in every line philosophy, ance, charity, magnanimity. difference in Generous in tainted by suspicion, ambitious, as men rightly are, yet modest, self-effacing, an open heart, an open mind, loving his fellows, grieving in their grief, and glad in their success. A man of peace summoned to war, he led his people with a firm and gentle hand, not dallying with the enemy but to the vanquished merciful. He knew the hearts of those who loved their states perhaps too dearly, and comprehending as he did the Federal Union, after the triumph of the Union army and the liberation of the slave he would have welcomed all to their old places in the sisterhood of states.

He thought himself a plain and ordinary man. He would have been bewildered had he seen the glistening temple his countrymen have raised by the Potomac in his name. This cabin symbolizes his beginning; the temple—his untarnished fame.

It is the child born in the cabin whom we now commemorate, the child who grew to be a man of tender heart, of deep emotion, of sympathy, and of simplicity—of generous and genuine life—the richest, ripest, sweetest, noblest fruitage of the land for which he gave his life, our land of boundless opportunity—Abraham Lincoln!



sinewy sent the song of dle scholars in ties; statesmen study his way policies and and depth of hand in hand he wrote; love, toler f forgiveness, He knew no men's souls. praise, un

## Taking Us Back to Lincoln

It is fitting that Massachusetts should possess a replica of the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born; that annually our citizens should gather about it to renew the sentiment it enshrines. On the Milton estate of Mary Bowditch Forbes, where the youth of our community may visualize that birth which was to give the Nation its greatest martyr, the ceremony will be repeated today, with an address by Representative Rathbone of Illinois, son of the man who saw Booth fire the fatal shot.

As the log cabin was the fundamental of American pioneer life, so did Lincoln embody the great attributes which rested the fate of the Republic on the maintenance of the American home and the virtues associated with it. Mr. Ford would preserve for us the little red schoolhouse in the same reverent spirit in which Mrs. Forbes has erected this memorial. They typify the same thing; from these sources sprang the immortal principles which ensure the integrity of the Nation so long as they remain the guiding stars. Let the visiting boy gaze upon the Lincoln cabin as a curiosity if he will; he will understand the more readily that from this humble dwelling could come the greatest spirit of his time; the man who saved the Union.

## At the Lincoln Cabin Today

It is a highly ingenious enterprise which Miss Mary B. Forbes carried out in the exact reproduction, on her place in Milton, from careful measurements and studies, of the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born, and the holding of exercises there on each Feb. 12, to which the public are invited. Today Congressman Rathbone of Illinois, whose father was with Lincoln in the box at the time of his assassination, will tell his straightforward story. Its interest lies in its direct human contacts. In spite of the snow we bespeak for the occasion a goodly attendance. The log cabin will be open to all comers between 2 and 5 o'clock, but the speaking and the music may be expected at 2:30.

Does it not appear that the present method of celebrating Lincoln's birthday in Massachusetts, by such exercises as these, is altogether in accord with common sense? We have observances of various sorts, in schools and elsewhere, and yet we avoid disrupting the business of the community, and so the lessening of its productive capacity, by an out-and-out holiday such as we shall have a week from Monday. We make no protest against existing holidays, but we urge great caution on the part of the lawmakers in establishing any others.



Boston Herald 2/12/39

## Throngs Expected to Visit Lincoln Cabin, Milton, Today

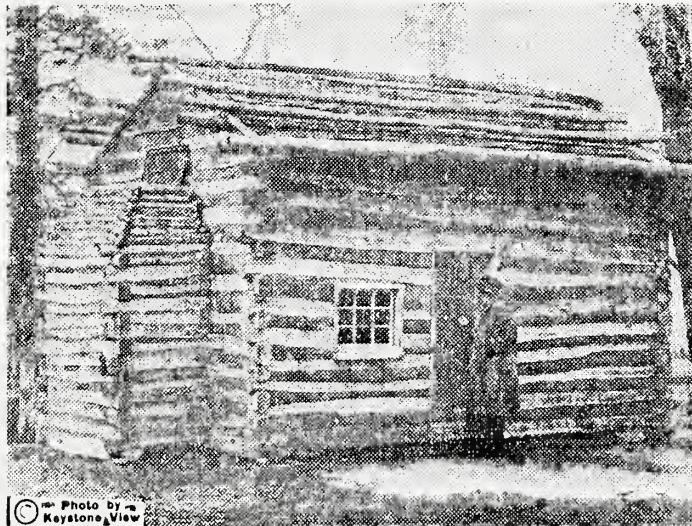


Photo by  
Keystone View

### LINCOLN CABIN ON MARY BOWDITCH FORBES ESTATE

Thousands of persons, it is expected, will visit today the replica of Lincoln's Cabin on the estate of Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes, 215 Adams st., Milton, just over the Dorchester boundary from Pierce sq., Lower Mills. The cabin will be open free to the public this afternoon from 2 to 5 o'clock.

Today, Lincoln's birthday, marks the 15th anniversary of the opening to the public of the cabin, an exact reproduction of that in which the Great Emancipator was born. Besides a throng of citizens from all sections of Greater Boston, visitors to the cabin will include delegations from patriotic units, among them American Legion, Spanish War Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Col. John J. S. Fahey, re-

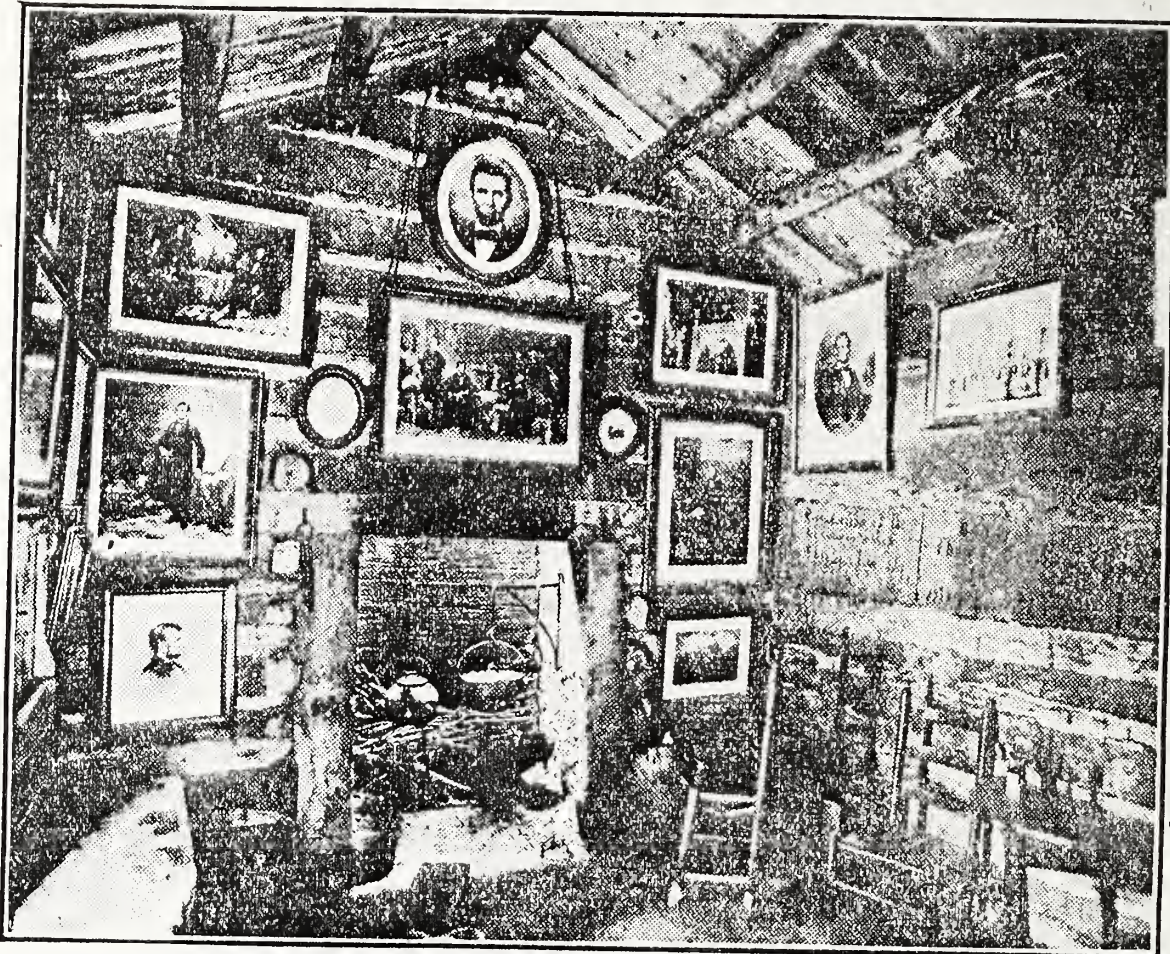
tired naval officer, president of Boston Council of the U. S. W. V., will head the delegation of more than 50 "vets" who will form a guard of honor.

Brig. Gen. William H. Bixbee of Brookline, the oldest West Point graduate, now in his 99th year, will be a special guest. He will be escorted to the cabin by a band and legionnaires carrying the colors from many Legion posts in Norfolk and Suffolk Counties.

Miss Forbes, who has sent out an invitation to the public to see the cabin and her collection of Lincolniana, housed there, will be assisted in receiving by Mrs. Randolph Frothingham, Mrs. Eugene Sullivan, Mrs. Frances E. Slattery and Representative Josiah B. Babcock, who is also a Milton Selectman.

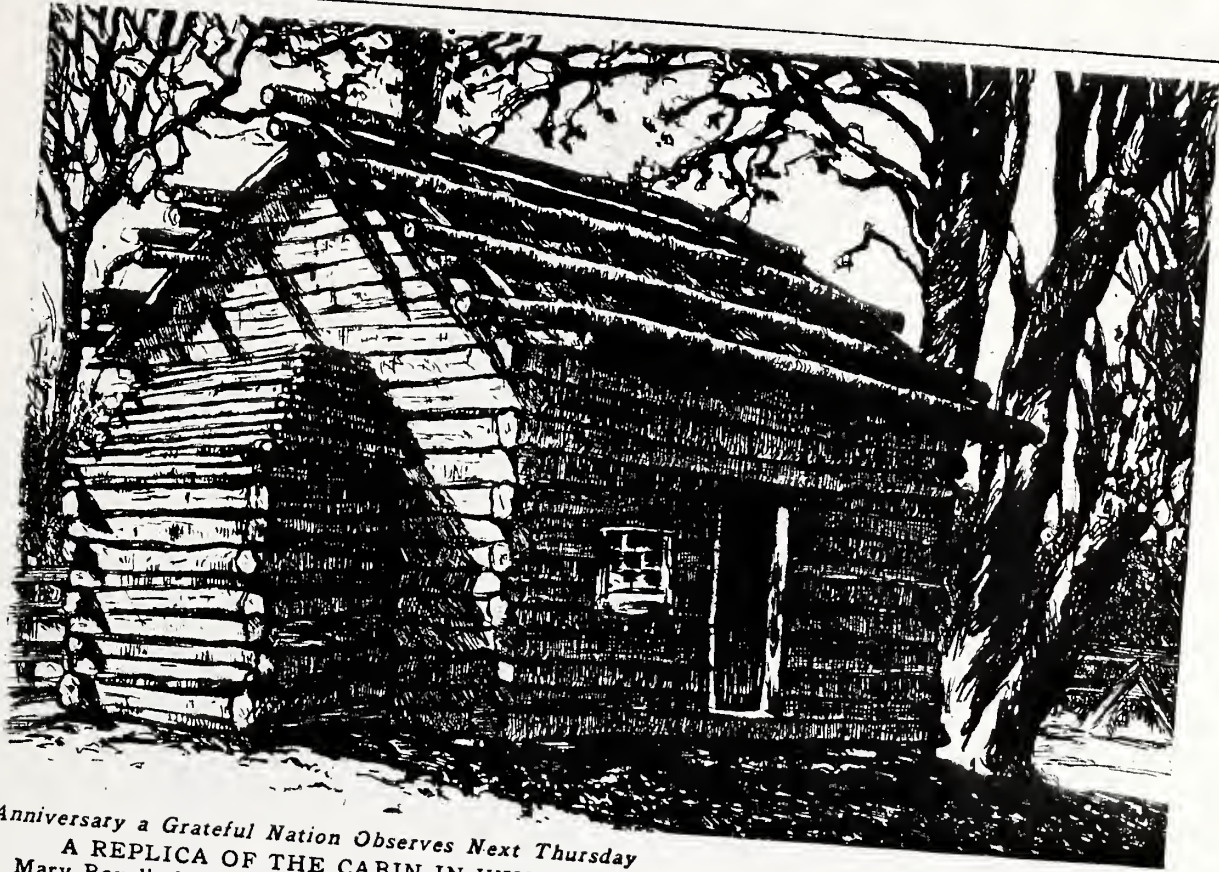


## *Interior of Reproduction of Lincoln Log Cabin*



The Cabin at Milton, Mass., Was Built After a Visit to the Original at Hodgenville, Ky., and a Careful Study and Measurement of All Details. The Corner Stone Was Laid Nov. 19, 1923, by Mrs. George L. Torbert, Who Saw Lincoln Nominated.





*Anniversary a Grateful Nation Observes Next Thursday*

A REPLICA OF THE CABIN IN WHICH HE WAS BORN, at Hodgenville, Ky., built by Mary Bowditch Forbes to house her collection of Lincolniana at Milton, Mass. Visitors by the thousand come to see this replica and to hear distinguished speakers each Lincoln's birthday.

(From an etching by Lucille Douglass, reproduced by courtesy of Knoedler's galleries.)



# 7000 INSPECT LINCOLN CABIN

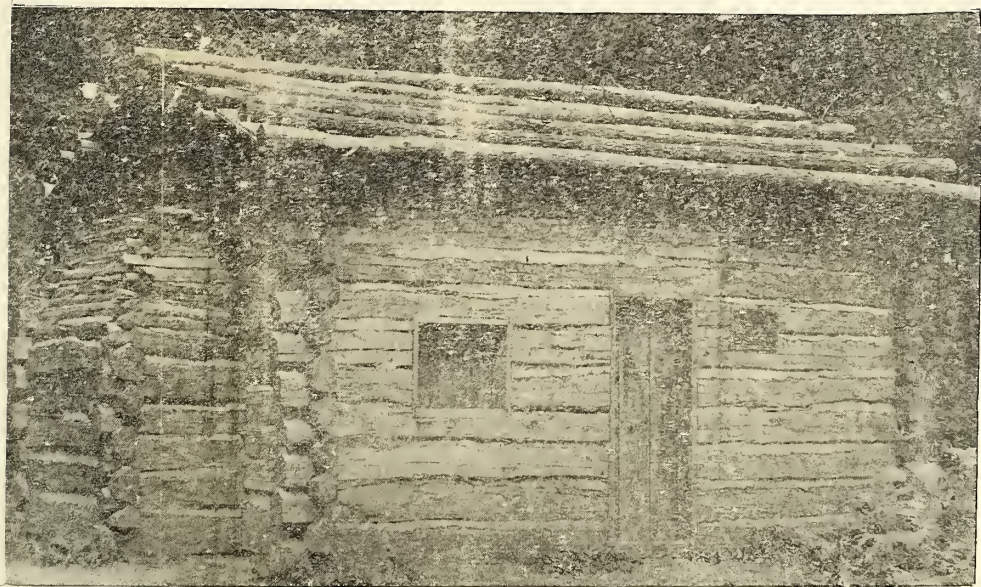
## Visitors in Milton Get Souvenir Pictures

February 1947

More than 7000 persons, including hundreds of school children from Milton and surrounding cities and towns, crowded the estate of Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes at 215 Adams st., Milton, yesterday when her famous Lincoln cabin, an exact reproduction of the humble home in which the Great Emancipator was born, was thrown open for public inspection for the first time in six years.

As each visitor entered the gates of the large estate and joined the long line waiting to inspect the historic shrine, they were handed a souvenir picture of the cabin by members of the Milton V.F.W. Post and American Legion Post, who acted as guides and explained the history of the cabin to the guests.











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